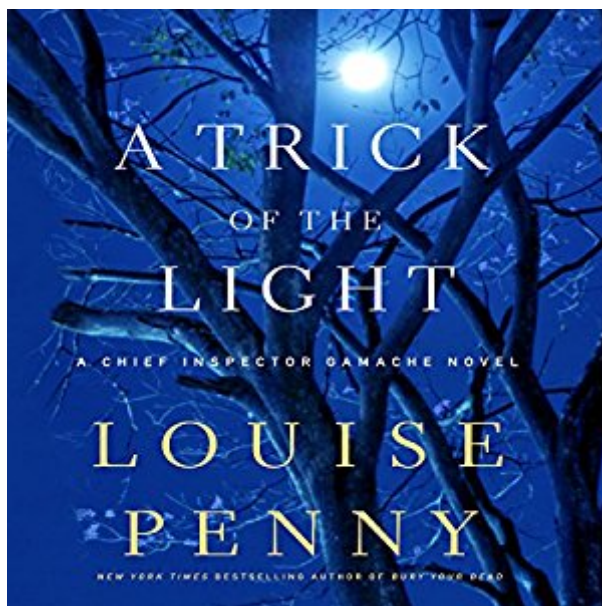


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A Trick Of The Light: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel



Synopsis

"Hearts are broken," Lillian Dyson carefully underlined in a book. "Sweet relationships are dead." But now Lillian herself is dead. Found among the bleeding hearts and lilacs of Clara Morrow's garden in Three Pines, shattering the celebrations of Clara's solo show at the famed Musée in Montreal. Chief Inspector Gamache, the head of homicide at the Sûreté du Québec, is called to the tiny Quebec village and there he finds the art world gathered, and with it a world of shading and nuance, a world of shadow and light. Where nothing is as it seems. Behind every smile there lurks a sneer. Inside every sweet relationship there hides a broken heart. And even when facts are slowly exposed, it is no longer clear to Gamache and his team if what they've found is the truth, or simply a trick of the light.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I love this series! But they are not quick reads if that's what you are looking for. I think Ms. Penny's writing is very, very, good. She's smart and knowledgeable. I think her character development is above most author's that are out there today. She sure understands human nature and it shows in her description of people. I don't think there's one of the books in this series that I've been disappointed in. But each book builds on people and situations from the books that came before. If you haven't read any of the others in this series, begin with the first and if you like that just keep on going!

The starred reviews say most of what I would say, although more eloquently. (What a great review from the Vine reviewer!) I love the Louise Penny novels and am awed by her command of language and her ability to make me feel like I am watching a movie because of her vivid descriptions of scenery and people. In this most recent novel, there was a bit more lovely dry humor than usual and I drove my husband nuts giggling out loud from time to time. It was a bit of sunlight dropping into 3 Pines after the heartwrenching "Bury Your Dead". Don't just read this particular Penny novel. Read all of them, starting with the brilliant first novel "Still Life". You may find yourself stopping from time to time, as I do, just to marvel at a turn of phrase or at a viewpoint which makes you stop and ponder that concept. These novels are worthwhile on many different levels, fulfilling one's desire for entertainment, thought provoking ideas, for a return to a life where 'honor' isn't just an old-fashioned word.

Chief Inspector Gamache returns to Three Pines when a tragedy befalls Clara Morrow's celebration dinner for her solo show at the famed Musee in Montreal, Canada. The show is an overwhelming success for Clara, but it doesn't carry the joy it should. Peter, Clara's husband just can't be happy for her at the cost of his personal feelings, a former gallery owner appears but is not wanting to sign Clara for the reasons he should, and to cap off the party, a former friend, who showed herself to be a vindictive person, appears to apologize or is it to ruin the joy? A death in Clara's garden brings the Surete to her and the villagers, whom the Chief Inspector knows well, are witnesses to the truth. This is a complex, evolving novel of suspense and a deep study of human emotions and what drives them. It is also one of the finest narratives on the subject of alcoholism that I have read. Ms. Penny surpasses herself with this book. I pray many more will follow and that I can grow with Gamache family and friends...

I have been binge-reading Louise Penny's Gamache novels and am happy to realize I am witnessing the development of a great writer. I am now finishing this 7th novel and after writing this, I will order the next one. Everything is perfect, characters, images, and above all, a fair description of human nature.

I like these books. There is always a meaning to life....a lesson. As the meanings become clearer I find myself putting the book down, I guess so it won't end as soon as it will. Each book has a lesson and the characters become more human....for me. This one is about meanness..... We all have it in us....we just have to overcome it.

Trick of light continues the delightful Gamache series in Three Pines, focusing on the artistry of one of its nicest inhabitants, Clara Morrow, who begins to surpass her husband in terms of talent. However, an old Clara nemesis ends up killed in her garden, and the hunt is on for the murderer. The art world is not a pretty one, with a number of nasty characters vying to become Clara's agent despite the murder. The development of characters in this series is part of the enjoyment, and we learn more and more about the inhabitants of Three Pines. One of the interesting issues is whether people can actually change what has been their basic nature, and how consequences can catch up with us sooner or later.

Clara Morrow, who lives with her husband Peter in the Quebec village of Three Pines near the border with Vermont, is now experiencing what she has always dreamed of – her own show of her paintings. Peter is also an artist, and officially supporting Clara but also expressing an ambivalence – you can call it jealousy. The show is in Montreal, at the Contemporary Art Museum, and it is followed by a rather large party in the village square of Three Pines. Both the exhibition launch and the party are packed with gallery owners, artists, critics, friends and even enemies. In the art world, friends and enemies can be the same people. The Morrow home fronts the square, and a discovery is made in the garden – the body of a dead woman. She is wearing bright party red, obviously a guest, and yet at first no one recognizes her. Her neck had been broken, neatly snapped. The victim turns out to be a former art critic for a Montreal newspaper, an artist, a recovering alcoholic, and Clara's childhood and college friend. As it turns out, most of the guests knew her. And more than a few had a motive for killing her – horrible press reviews that destroyed early careers and vicious personal attacks are only some of the reasons why she might have been killed. Clara herself has to be considered a suspect, for what happened in the past. The death and the art world that provides its context is the heart of Louise Penny's seventh Inspector Armand Gamache mystery, *Trick of the Light*. And it wouldn't be a Louise Penny if the murder was the only action. Penny layers her stories, providing a richness to the characters and settings that make the stories come alive. In this seventh mystery, published in 2011, Gamache and his chief lieutenant Jean-Guy Beauvoir are both still recovering from the attack on the Quebec Surete police that formed a considerable part of the story in *Bury Your Dead*. Gamache knows that someone in the Surete released the video of the shootings of police to attempt to force him to retire. Beauvoir is struggling with a possible addiction to oxycontin pain pills and the realization that he has fallen in love with Gamache's married daughter, Annie. It is

a wonderful brew of passion and suspense that Penny concocts. A Trick of the Light is another wonderful story.

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